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D49er

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BACK TO THE BEACH

Former LBSU coaching staff member Jeff Cammon becomes the new women's basketball head coach.
See page 8.





Carlos Blancas | Daily 49er

Pro-divestment students celebrate the result of the divestment resolution in the quad in front of the bookstore. Students were asked to refrain from openly celebrating in front of the Senate chambers.

MOVING TO DIVEST

ASI senate passes resolutions

Student leaders voted in favor of campus divestment.

By James Chow
Staff Writer

The Associated Students, Inc. Senate passed in a (15,7,1) roll call vote a divestment resolution from companies that profit from Palestinian oppression.

One side of the gallery restrained their cheers and jitters, while the other side donned dispirited, reddened faces as the ASI Senate tallied their votes.

This resolution would encourage the university to divest from companies that receive monetary gain from Palestinian oppression. The ASI Senate also passed two similar resolutions the same day that encouraged the divestment from companies that profit from LGBTQ+ oppression and private prisons.

Now that all of the divestment resolutions have passed in the Senate, the university at large and its auxiliaries, such as the 49er Foundation and the 49er Shops, will decide whether or not they will support it.

Since the inception of the divestment resolution regarding Palestinian oppression, the Farber Senate chambers have been filled with Jewish and Palestinian people alike, as well as campus members interested in the outcome of the resolution, all voicing their thoughts on the controversy of the Israel and Palestine conflict taking place overseas.

The culmination of emotion before the vote was led by loud claps, cheers and snaps from the audience. Attendance at ASI's last Senate meeting of the semester was at its highest due to the great controversy over the resolution. Students, faculty and others passionate about the topic sported t-shirts and held up signs advocating for their cause.

One audience member named Mustafa Bibi who spoke among the 44 people participating in the public comments period wore a Palestinian flag as a cape.

"I am a Palestinian, but before I am a Palestin-

see **DIVEST**, page 2

Professors question academic freedom at The Beach

A letter from President Conoley opposing divestment resolution puts a 'chill' on free speech, some say.

By Valerie Osier
News Editor

Some professors fear a "chilling effect" on free speech and academic freedom after President Jane Close Conoley made a statement to the campus opposing the Associated Students, Inc. resolution to divest in Israel, prompting several response letters from legal organizations, professors and the California Faculty Association.

"As a university leader, I examine every action I contemplate with the question, 'Does this promote inclusion, excellence and public good at our university?'" Conoley wrote in her letter. "BDS resolutions fall short of this standard because they lessen one group's sense of belonging, are based on binary assumptions that do not represent the complex and multinational realities of Middle East conflicts, and, finally, act as catalysts to acts of vandalism and violence."

The letter, dated April 26, was sent to ASI senators the day before the first reading of the resolution titled "Socially Responsible Investing: Companies Complacent in and Profiting from Palestinian Oppression," or SR #2017-37. It calls for the divestment of 49er Foundation funds in several companies that do business in Israel and is in line with the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement. The resolution passed 15-7-1 on Wednesday and will move to the university administration to act on.

"Her letter is a direct threat to academic freedom on campus because when you condemn one side of a debate without evidence, you cast a shadow ... over the campus," said Liz Jackson, staff attorney for Palestine Legal. "And rightly so, it makes both students and scholars, or professors, afraid to speak openly about Palestinian rights out of concern that they too will branded with the stain of anti-Semitism, no matter how baseless that accusation is."

According to its website, Palestine Legal is an organization that works toward "protecting the civil and constitutional rights of people in the U.S. who speak out for Palestinian freedom." Jackson wrote a letter to Conoley criticizing her statement and asking her to retract it. Jackson said

see **FREEDOM**, page 2

RALLY

President Conoley responds to 'Sanctuary Campus' protest

Protesters marched from Prospector Pete, delivering demands to Conoley's hands.

By Adam R. Thomas
Staff Writer



Johnny Romero | Daily 49er

Students marched down from the Prospector Pete Statue at CSULB toward Brotman Hall to send a message to make CSULB a Sanctuary School on Wednesday.

Student protesters demanding that Cal State Long Beach officially adopt a "Sanctuary" campus status marched to and delivered a set of demands to President Jane Close Conoley at Brotman Hall just before 2 p.m. on Wednesday. Conoley came out to meet the students, after expecting a prearranged private meeting with three of the protestors and being surprised by the protest and list of demands.

The students originally gathered by the Prospector Pete statue on upper campus at 1 p.m. where they rallied a crowd with chants and speeches about making CSULB a sanctuary campus. The group, primarily led by Sandra Ocampo and Esmerelda Antonakakis with the campus organization La Raza Student Association, grew to around 20 members before they marched to the President's office.

At one point, campus police officers asked them to refrain from using their bullhorn after receiving a noise complaint from faculty members located in Peterson Hall 1.

"I was cool with it," said University Police Department officer Vergal Munoz Jr. "It's the faculty that's complaining. I don't care. They can talk all they want."

The students then marched to Brotman Hall's top floor on lower campus to chants of "No ban, no wall, sanctuary for all!" and "Education, not deportation!"

Outside of President Conoley's office at Brotman Hall, Antonakakis delivered a series of demands to the president.

"We are present with fellow students, faculty, alumni, staff and community members to present our demands to make our campus a sanctuary campus for all," said Antonakakis.

In addition to suspending communication or cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the list of demands included that CSULB officially designate the college a "safe zone," hire a new director and employees for the DREAM resource center and provide legal counsel for undocumented students on campus. Other demands on the list included that CSULB divest from various business firms that are linked to Israel, prevent ICE and the Department of Homeland Security from being allowed at campus career fairs and to "demilitarize" campus police by removing assault rifles and riot gear from the UPD armory.

Antonakakis gave Conoley until May 17 to respond to the demands and a year to see that progress was made toward them. After the demands were issued, several members of the protesting group spoke to Conoley about grievances they had with CSULB and Conoley.

"I am graduating this spring, but I cannot say that it was because of the help that I received here at Cal State Long Beach," said Erika Suarez, an anthropology student. "I've had to organize, I've had to take time off of my classes and have had several different emotional meltdowns because of the amount of stress that is put on the backs of students. I am scared to come to campus because of a lot of racist events that are happening on campus."

Suarez said that she had been assaulted by a conservative faculty member at a prior march she had participated in on campus.

"He grabbed me, shook me and said 'we did not do this when Obama got elected,'" Suarez said. "So these are your faculty, these are the people that are in the university, and we're scared."

Members of the Muslim Student Association also questioned why Conoley had not issued a timely warning after a vandalism incident in April that threatened Muslim students was discovered. After the demands, Conoley asked if the three women she had originally planned to meet still wanted to attend their scheduled 2 o'clock meeting. The protesters responded with "this is our meeting," before leaving Brotman Hall.

Conoley spoke to the Daily 49er after the protesters left, and tried to address many of the issues they had brought up.

"There was a meeting with the Muslim Student Association and the chief of police, the dean of students and the associate dean of students just this past monday to talk them through that issue of 'did we give a timely warning?' when we found the graffiti," Conoley said. "What didn't show up [in the Daily 49er] was that when that [graffiti] was found, we called the FBI, we called the local PDs to see if there was any pattern, and it was judged not to be a threat. Obviously it felt like a threat."

Conoley also addressed the issue of cooperation with ICE and said that CSULB was following a directive from the Chancellor's Office to not officially state that the college would be a "sanctuary campus,"

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DIVEST

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ian I am a Muslim which means if I see injustice, it is my duty to stand up against it," Bibi said. "I support this resolution because it is the right thing to do as a human being. If you actually believe that Israel ever intends for peace, your entire cognitive development is a disaster, disaster! They are trying to justify genocide!"

The resolution was considered controversial for even its first readings, with President Jane Close Conoley, a divided group of senators and a group of audience members expressing opinions against the proposition.

Co-director of Jewish Studies Jeffrey Blutinger, who spoke before all three readings, consistently voiced against the passing of the resolution.

"This resolution is racist and anti-Semitic, and it should be rejected," Blutinger said. "It singles out Jews from all the peoples on earth and says only you [the Jews] may not have national aspirations."

Before the resolution passed, the Senate allowed 30 minutes of discussion among the board. College of the arts senator Sofia Musman said she was heartbroken and spoke about her feelings toward the resolution before listing its technicalities such as suggesting changing the mention of "Israeli state" to "the state of Israel" throughout the document.

"This resolution is about hate: hate for me as a Jewish woman, hate for my Jewish people and hate directed at my peers, family and friends," Musman said. "I am here to represent students and if even one group of students feels marginalized by this resolution, then we have failed."

Author of the resolution and senator-at-large Yasmin Elasmar defended her support of the divestment, believing it a necessary step to protecting human rights. She said this resolution is giving a voice to those who are afraid of speaking out supporting divestment in fears of being targeted.

"To everyone who says this is divisive, what about the wall that exists in Palestine - do you think that's not divisive?" Elasmar said. "A lot of people have publicly stood up against the wall ... that Trump wants to build. How can we stand up against that, but not stand up against a wall that already exists, that already divides us, that already hurts people, that keeps me from getting into the state of Israel."

Musman also mentioned the issue of human rights and protecting the state of Israel, which is the only recognized Jewish state.

"We are already divided with the so-called Trump administration and I don't want to feel unsafe on this campus because I'm Jewish and because I support the existence of the Jewish state," Musman said. "Human rights is the issue. I believe we have to protect everyone and not single out just one state."

Elasmar says she wants the university to continue pushing for divestment against companies that profit from oppressing other groups.

"I'm hoping [the university] says yes because this is the student voice," Elasmar said. "It's really not okay for us as a university to continue on making money off the oppression of these students. They need to respect that students should have control where their money goes and make those decisions [accordingly]."

FREEDOM

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her team is keeping an eye on the situation surrounding the divestment resolution at Cal State Long Beach.

Mark Yudof of the Academic Engagement Network, an organization made up of faculty who oppose the BDS movement and support academic freedom and freedom of expression, said that Conoley has the right to say what she thinks.

"University officials often speak out against racism and homophobia and to defend undocumented students and on other issues, and no constitutional concerns are implicated unless action is taken to discipline others for their views," Yudof said in an email. "When a university official speaks, others are free to criticize, rebut and disagree. But no court has ever held that the official's expression chills the speech rights of others. The idea of a chilling effect in these circumstances is antithetical to the First Amendment, which encourages robust and open debate of policy issues."

Anthropology professor Ronald Loewe said that while Conoley has the same right to free speech as anyone else on campus, he worries that she might be overstepping her boundaries.

"I question from an educational standpoint, whether it's good for a president to use her institutional authority to try and get a group of students to support or vote down a particular resolution on campus," said Loewe, who supports the resolution.

The letter has also sparked heated debate on faculty forums online, namely the College of Liberal Arts forum.

"Among the faculty, President Conoley's statement, I think, really distorted the conversation - at least to the extent that I was involved," said Loewe. "We have a lot of discussions on the CLA forum ... there were statements back and forth, but I got several emails from assistant professors who

> "We have academic freedom, so we can speak without fear about controversial areas of scholarship, and that's something I take very seriously and have for my whole career."
>
> *-Jane Close Conoley, CSULB President*

said, 'I really wanted to comment on this, I support your position, but I'm coming up for tenure next year or in a couple years and I really don't feel safe commenting on the issue now.'"

Others don't see a problem with Conoley's letter as a threat to academic freedom. Jeffrey Blutinger, professor of Jewish Studies, is opposed to the resolution but is supportive of an independent Palestinian state next to Israel.

"I've [experienced] situations where I've been in conflict with the administration and I've made public statements. I'm not sure why people would feel threatened by the president's letter because she simply stated her opinion as to what she thinks good policy is," Blutinger said. "As faculty, we have the freedom to speak on all issues, and faculty do ... I haven't seen any evidence that faculty feel any way silenced or their speech rights are chilled ... If you take a position and I criticize it, have I chilled free speech? Only if you think any criticism is chilling of free speech."

California Faculty Association President Douglas Domingo-Foraste issued a statement to faculty after Conoley's letter was published to reassure them that they're free to state their opinions and hold discussions on this matter.

According to the emailed statement, CFA also doesn't hold a position on the merits of the BDS movement and is more concerned with faculty freedom of speech when it comes to expressing individual opinions. He said that while no one has told him that they personally were concerned, he has had about three or four faculty members tell him that others are.

"I just wanted to reinforce the faculty that they did have this academic freedom," Domingo-Foraste said. "I wanted people to be treated with respect. I wanted them to know that there is no legal reason for them to fear for their jobs."

Conoley said in a recent interview with the Daily 49er that she is "pro-Palestine and pro-Israel" and that she supports free speech and academic freedom of professors to state their opinions. She was also surprised to hear her statements interpreted the way they were.

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CITY COUNCIL

VIP Records sign made historic landmark

The iconic record store sign will be relocated and reinstalled in Long Beach.

By Samantha Diaz
Staff Writer

Long Beach's world famous VIP Records sign will be relocated and made into a historical landmark after receiving unanimous approval from city council Tuesday night.

The record store is known locally and internationally as a hip-hop icon, being the starting place of many artists such as Snoop Dogg, Nate Dogg and Warren G.

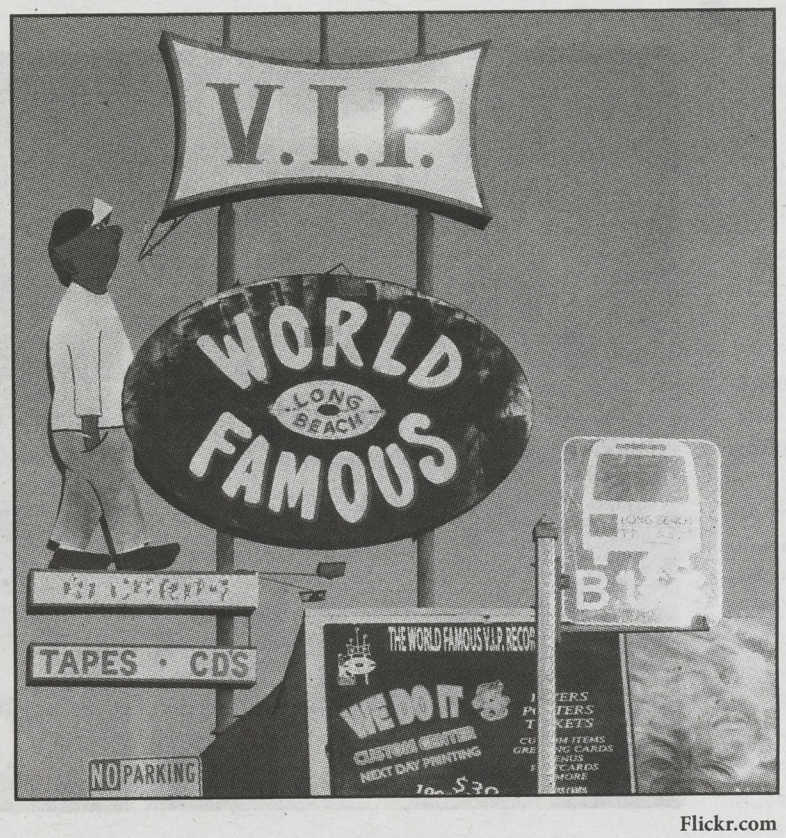
"This is certainly about preserving the VIP legacy, but it's also about the history of Long Beach, and I think we have to honor all of our history," said Mayor Robert Garcia. "Not only is VIP Records an important part of of the history of Long Beach and the development of music, it's also an important part of black history, and it's important to recognize that within our African American community."

The city is providing $80,000 toward the sign's preservation, storage and relocation. It is currently residing in the sixth district on Pacific Coast Highway in central Long Beach and does not have a future location picked. The council is trying to keep the historic sign in the city and will have to give a written approval to move it outside of Long Beach.

Kelvin Anderson, owner of VIP Records, will retain full ownership over the sign while going through the application process to make it into a historic landmark, relocate and install it.

"This is more than just a record store, this is more than just vinyls, this is more than just the history. This is more than anything you can possibly imagine, this is a worldwide phenomenon that we are sitting in our own community," said Carrie Johnson, student at Long Beach City College. "This vote is important to our African American community and all people of color in our community that need to be represented."

The agreement made between Anderson and the city is the result of months of meetings and multiple petitions. There was a miscommunication between Anderson and the council back in March on whether the sign would become city property or remain Anderson's. Since then, the miscommunication had been cleared up and they were able to come to an agreement. At the meeting, Mayor Garcia thanked Anderson for all his work as a small business owner that he has done for the city.



Flickr.com

The VIP Records sign located in Long Beach is known locally and internationally as a hip-hop icon. The historical sign will be relocated and reinstalled in the city.

The sign will find its new home over the next two years.

Council also approved a $10.5 million loan to the Aquarium of the Pacific to go towards its Pacific Visions expansion.

The expansion will include an immersive Honda Pacific Visions theater that will be used as both an educational and entertainment facility, according to city staff. Multiple galleries will also be installed, including a changing exhibit gallery, art gallery and orientation gallery.

Aquarium of the Pacific has already raised $43 million towards the expansion from private funds and grants, with the city providing the last $10 million the aquarium needed to get the project started. The loan is coming from the city's Tidelands Fund, which has an area specifically for the Aquarium of the Pacific, and will not affect any other Tidelands projects such as the Queen Mary and Rainbow Harbor area.

"Essentially, the city will be getting a $53 million facility for $15 million in city investment and allow our wonderful educational institution, the Aquarium of the Pacific, to grow and thrive," said City Assistant Manager Tom Modica.

Modica said the aquarium has had its most successful year yet, bringing in roughly $1.8 million. The city will receive the payment back in full over the next 10 years and .5 percent in interest.

Despite the amount of funding the aquarium will receive, the council wants to keep a level of transparency between the city and the aquarium. The aquarium must inform the city if any of its funding changes over the next 10 years.

The expansion is scheduled to be revealed to the public by 2018.

RALLY

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but would operate as one in all but name.

"We've been told specifically to do what sanctuaries do, but not use the term for fear of retaliation from the federal government," Conoley said. "The reason we don't talk so openly about them is that we don't want to bring the wrath from the Trump administration on us. I know that's unsatisfying, but a long time ago I learned there's some wisdom in discretion. Going up and poking my finger in President Trump's eye doesn't seem wise when 56% of our students have federal aid packages."

Conoley claimed that there was a large amount of support for undocumented students amongst administrators. She also stated that of the many activities that students did not often see, that the school had purged all official records of any mark that could identify a student as undocumented, while stating that invitations of ICE and DHS to career fairs was done by student groups in the criminology department whose rights she could not infringe.

Conoley also expressed hope that students and faculty on either side of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions issue could find common ground and discuss things civilly.

"It's such a complicated issue because we all want our students to be connected and understand the political realities that surround them," said Conoley. "I think some of the students they speak from their hearts and they want somebody to do something. If I could wave a magic wand and have a different outcome to an election, certainly, I'd do that. I can act only within the constraints I have."

FREEDOM

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"We have academic freedom, so we can speak without fear about controversial areas of scholarship, and that's something I take very seriously and have for my whole career," Conoley said. "I have a focus as a campus president to keep my campus as secure and welcoming as possible ... If people's concerns are more international and they speak out about matters, that's certainly their right. I will always be looking out at how that will affect my campus ... That's my job."

Jackson said that in California and across the country, there is a lot of pressure for professors to stay quiet if they support Palestine or BDS. While she couldn't go into detail because of attorney-client privilege, she said that people at CSULB and other campuses have come to her saying they feel that they're "branded" as anti-Semitic.

"I get questions like: 'can I write a letter about this or will that affect my tenure?' Questions like: 'Can I teach a course on this issue or will that ruin my career?' Questions like: 'Can speak out in support for divestment or will that affect my family's naturalization application if I'm smeared on the internet?' Which is a likely possibility. All those kinds of questions, I field them daily," Jackson said. "And unfortunately, often, my honest answer is: 'It's risky.'"

Some professors say they would like to see more open discussion on the topic, such as a public forum. Sherna Berger-Gluck, a CSULB professor emerita, was disappointed in Conoley's letter and said she was concerned that the president was stifling debate by so publicly taking one side.

Said Berger-Gluck: "Vigorous discussion is what should be happening on campus, not closing down discussion."

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PERFORMANCE REVIEW

High Spirits with Glasspirits

LA-based experimental rock band brings Afro-Cuban influences to the Nugget.

By Natasha Overin
Contributing Writer



Photo by Natasha Overin

Abe Perez played drums for Glasspirits in their Tuesday night performance at the Nugget.

Students got the chance to drop their textbooks and raise their glasses for a few hours while watching experimental rock band Glasspirits perform at the Nugget Grill & Pub Tuesday night.

Glasspirits, took the stage at 5 p.m., giving students a breath of fresh air in the midst of exams.

The duo behind Glasspirits, Joanna Glass and Abe Perez, make an unlikely musical pair. Glass is a classically trained violinist, who also leads on vocals, guitar and keyboard. Perez is self-taught, and provides drums, congas and other percussion.

Together, they brought an original flavor to their performance, reminiscent of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Muse, with afro-cuban influences and a twist of classical and electronic music.

The group's diverse backgrounds put a refreshing take on traditional rock music. Their energy was contagious, eliciting hearty cheers from the small crowd gathered at the Nugget.

Glass and Perez fed off each other's energy, bringing a free-spirited atmosphere to the pub.

The two switched instruments often, with Perez transitioning from drums to congas, and Glass swapping her violin for the keyboard and electric guitar. Despite Glass and Perez's different musical backgrounds, Glasspirits music melded together seamlessly.

"We're lucky we found each other," said Glass. "There are a lot of great musicians but I feel like what each one of us brings as a team is unique. We're like brother and sister, we share a lot of things as friends."

At one point in the performance, Perez played a wild drum solo for their song, "Ritmos del Ybra," while Glass danced freely to the music.

"I'm from Cuba, and wanted to come up with a percussion and drum solo that combined all of my Afro-Cuban influences," said Perez. The song got its title, because Ybra is Perez's Cuban nickname.

On stage, Glass and Perez maintained a constant energy, as if they were playing for a crowd of thousands, despite the small venue. Between songs, the two exchanged jokes and banter with the crowd, clearly at home on stage.

Glasspirits performed songs from their album, "Mysteries of Rhythm: Dusk." Glass wrote the songs, while Perez contributed his knowledge of afro-cuban music and years of experience from his previous band "Yankee Rose," that toured with big-name bands such as Van Halen.

"Her writing is very melodic," said Perez. "Some of [the songs] have very challenging parts."

Glass is an artist in more ways than just her music. She designed the cover art for their album, her passion contributes to her musical style.

"Having an artistic open mind helps," said Glass. "[It] bleeds into the cover, the artwork and the music."

At the conclusion of their performance, Perez and Glass showcased their diversity as artists by serenading the audience with a gentle cover of "My Angel Baby." Perez took to the keyboard, while Glass played violin and sang the sweet, sultry lyrics.

Glasspirits' call themselves "music for everyone," and they certainly live up to this claim. The duo was just as comfortable head-banging on the electric guitar and drums as playing heartfelt, lyrical music.

Students can have the opportunity to watch Glasspirits perform when the band plays on July 29 at DiPiazza's in Long Beach.

MOVIE REVIEW

Guardians of the Marvel Franchise

Chris Pratt boogey dances "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 " to relevance.

By Ross Siev
Contributing Writer



Marvel Studios

Rocket is voiced by Bradley Cooper, in the film, "Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2."

There is usually some heart in Marvel films due to their similarities in tonal and story structure, but "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," injects that heart with a "Pulp Fiction" size needle of adrenaline.

Comic book films are becoming like stale bread at this point. Recent films like, "X-Men: Apocalypse" and "Suicide Squad" could only do so much before retreading similar superhero tropes. But, "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" manages to keep the Marvel film brand fresh.

Chris Pratt's Star-Lord and his ragtag, quippy alien crew are back in another adventure where they stay true to their title by saving the galaxy, again. But the typical "end of the world" consequence doesn't downgrade the film. In fact, the sequel improves upon the previous film's plot, where it was the Infinity Stone that brought them all together. Their unifying bond has been replaced with character arcs and strange new areas to discover. Although the major plot focuses on Star-Lord and his cosmic long-lost father Ego the Living Planet (Kurt Russell) reuniting, the core focus is on the original team and their melodrama.

Returning to the ship Milano is the hardened but ever-so goofy Drax (Dave Bautista), emotionally-distant assassin Gamora (Zoe Saldana) and pint-sized Groot (Vin Diesel).

Each have a role to play in both a dramatic and hilarious fashion. Rocket (Bradley Cooper) also makes a comeback, providing drama and driving a wedge in the crew. This seems to be a reoccurring cliche seen in almost every team-related comic book film that devolves into the predictable outcome of reunifying.

Marvel films seem to be changing their formula from the generic, action-heavy plot, to stories of a well developed hero, and their personal struggle against a villain. "Captain America: Civil War" and "Thor: Ragnarok" were improvements to their prospective series', with "Civil War" focusing on personal struggles and "Ragnarok" finally making a Thor film look exciting.

"Volume 2" is everything fans of the previous film could hope for, but with more touches of comedy from the literally colorful cast of characters. Both returning stars and smaller, side characters all get their moments to shine and have their own side stories that make you end up rooting for them. Unlike villains seen in past films like, "Doctor Strange," "Ant-Man," "Avengers: Age of Ultron" and "Thor: The Dark World," the character has some development that provides a worthwhile threat to the heroes.

What helps to deviate "Volume 2" from being another mind-numbing sci-fi adventure is the goofy sci-fi weirdness that director James Gunn and the special effects wizards bring back to the table. Aliens are just the tip of the iceberg as more worlds and their societies are explored. It doesn't help that a lot of the environments are clearly CGI, but I enjoyed the larger-than-life planets that give the characters and audience an urge for exploration.

Gunn is also no stranger to underlying the more dramatic moments with bursts of comedy, which he has done in previous works like "Super" and "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed." For "Volume 2," the jokes come in almost every minute, so often that I later ended up expecting a joke to arrive after heavily dramatic moments.

On top of the comedic element, what makes this film great is the campy atmosphere, rockin' '80s soundtrack and spectacular visuals. Gunn crafted another world worth exploring for its many inhabitants and inevitable dangers.

Some of the target audience might miss the bombastic '80s references ranging from "Cheers" to David Hasselhoff, but the inclusion of the inherent silliness helps to craft "Volume 2" as its own character, separate from any other comic book film.

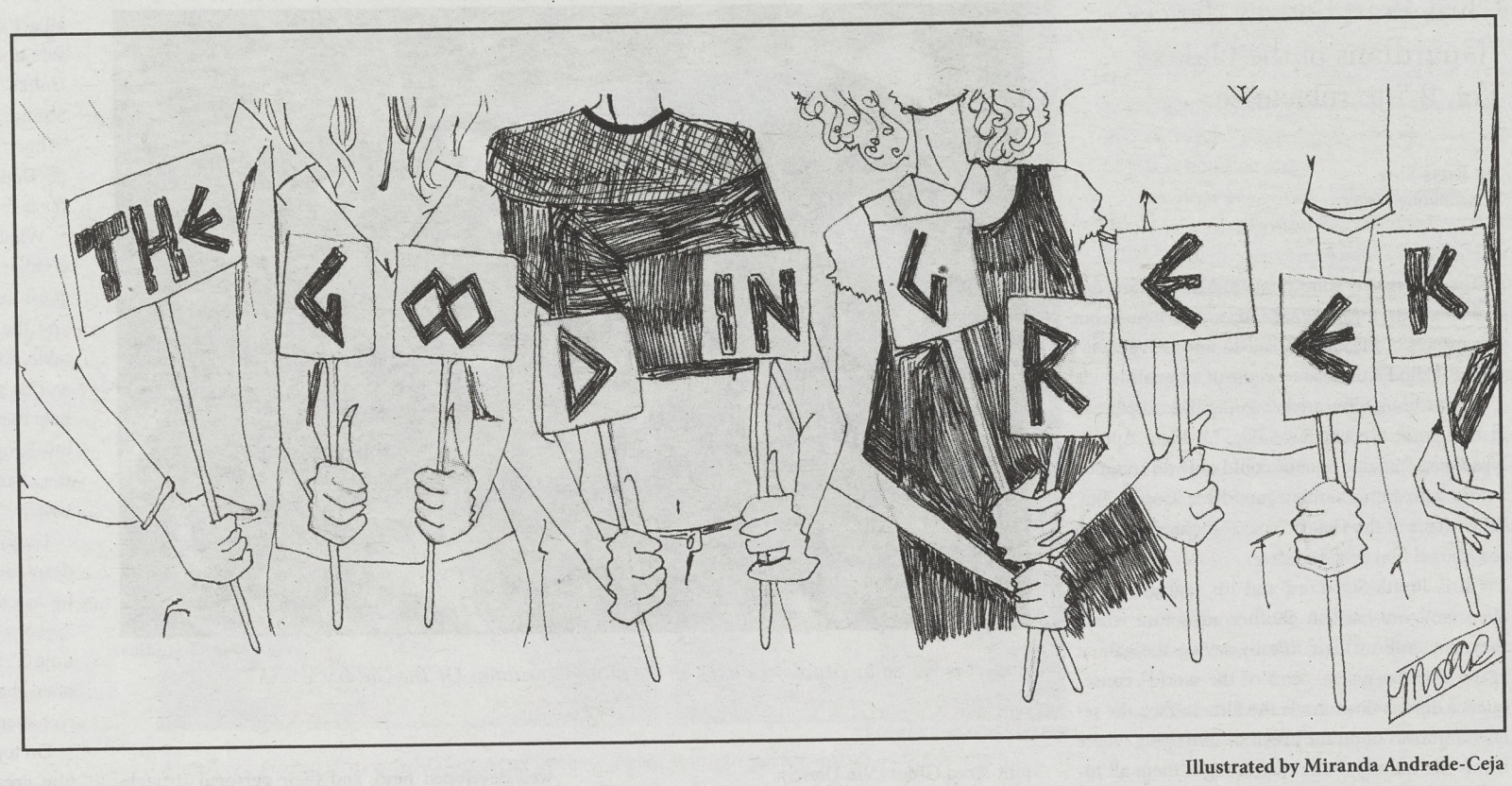


LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Greek life leadership takes a stand against negligence

Interfraternity Council president responds to Greek life criticism following Penn State accident

By Nicolas Olenslager-Orton
Contributing Writer



Illustrated by Miranda Andrade-Ceja

Olenslager-Orton elaborates on the values of Greek life at CSULB.

Due to unreasonable and extreme behavior, another college life has been destroyed. A life has been taken away from a family and community much too soon.

It is disheartening to hear of 19-year-old Timothy Piazza's death at Penn State and serves as a reminder of the issues that collegiate life faces. It is reasonable to assess that the Beta Theta Pi fraternity at Penn State was careless in their actions and as a result, a promising young man is dead.

It is during moments like this that students need to reflect on their college lives and stand firm in a commitment to sustainable and healthy living. We hear stories like Piazza's too often, and it is important that we do not become apathetic to tragedies like this. His death should sadden the hardest of hearts and bring actions to protect and safeguard our own communities from tragedies of such a preventable nature.

These very events call for the fabric of collegiate life to be repaired and reworked, to inculcate a more holistic approach to issues of carelessness and organizational failure. In contrast, the mainstream solution to mitigate issues of college life and death is much more black and white. At least once a month a Greek organization screws up, and newspapers both national and local call for the destruction of Greek Life. This view and solution is clearly defined in Monday's opinion piece titled, "Greek life doesn't care about student lives," suggesting to "ban them [fraternities and sororities] all" as a solution.

The call to abolish Greek life on campus is understandable considering many of its failures, but doing so diminishes the ability of individuals to better their communities and the diverse and dynamic group of Greeks at CSULB. I do not wish to paint a false narrative of perfection or dismiss the many valid issues that Greek life faces. However, it would be helpful to evaluate the 49ers opinion piece's solution in contrast to some of the creative solutions that Long Beach Greek life applies to prevent unreasonable, extreme and unhealthy organizational behavior.

Let's say we get rid of Greek life at the Beach regardless of any of the 1,500 students who call themselves Greek at CSULB. One might say, "Well that's only 4 percent of the student body," — but would disbanding a small group of students make a difference? It absolutely would; there would be 1,500 less students organized behind and raising funds for causes like our student emergency fund (which provides food resources to food insecure students and emergency housing in some cases), tree planting in our community, cleaning highways (on the 22 next to campus) and beaches, or contributing thousands of dollars to veterans and children in need of medical financing every semester.

One might think that getting rid of these organizations will decrease alcohol related deaths, sexual assault and hazing. It might, but we cannot assume that empty claim based off of the proactive approach at Long Beach State.

I implore students to see past national averages and form an opinion of Greek life based on their very own community at the Beach. Greek students are mandated to receive more social education from outlets like Student Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, Title IX and Student Life and Development than the average Long Beach student.

Greek Life leaders are educated in bystander intervention; violence mediation; the effects of hazing, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and preventative steps and measures for safety and health. Semesterly retreats are held to educate leaders of their immense responsibility and legal obligations to Title IX and Jacob's Law (the hazing law of California).

Can we assume based on these facts that less educated students in these social issues would decrease alcohol related accidents? I think we would see the exact opposite effect and even increased possibilities of tragedies occurring on campus. The education of students is vital to preventing unreasonable and extreme behavior.

With a campus full of individuals from different backgrounds, we cannot assume that everyone understands the weightiness or possibilities of such tragedies. Greek life at the Beach finances engaging education on these very topics because we understand that we do not know everything, and it is important to develop responsible young people with knowledge of the social issues that affect life adversely.

This might sound cliche, but the relationships that are cultivated through Greek life are among the deepest relationships I have. I have brothers from multiple religions, ethnic backgrounds, family types, political ideologies, social classes and genuinely different upbringings. I may never have experienced diversity and individuality without my brothers. The safety and counsel I seek from my brothers, alumni and undergraduates, goes beyond friendship.

To be confronted with close friends who have lost a parent, overcame addiction, chose sober living because of their father or had to work full-time to cover their college education and still find the value in paying for community are just a few things that have touched me. Their strength and resilience pushes me, not simply to party or act like a "Frat Boy" as so many would stereotype us as, but to keep going when life gets tough (which it so often does) and continue to pursue who I am and what I want.

This dynamic experience is why I value my Greek life. Students can join a topic-specific club or student organization and hone their skills of leadership, enjoy religious fellowship, celebrate scholastic excellence or serve others selflessly. Although those things are what make college an experience, I get all of that, and a support system. It gives me hope that our world can work with individuals that do not always agree or have the same outlook on life because Greek life at Long Beach State does exactly that.

I cannot say that Greek life is perfect, but let's not assume that it is worthless. In the end, the only way we can address the problems we face are at their roots, rather than shift blame to organizations that do not fit our own ideological preferences.

The route to reconciliation of college tragedies is up to the individual to choose, but I would implore students to look past stereotypes and engage the people they disagree with. To generalize an entire group based on the actions of some is to diminish the unique qualities and characteristics that Greek life has to offer.

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.



Jose De Castro | Daily 49er

Sophomore utility Domenic Colacchio is greeted by his teammates after scoring a run during a game against Cal Poly May 5 at Blair Field. The Dirtbags will face University of Minnesota in their final non-conference series this weekend.

BASEBALL

Dirtbags go on business trip

Long Beach State travels to Minnesota for a break from Big West play.

By Luke Ramirez
Assistant Sports Editor

The No. 8 Long Beach State Dirtbags maintained their place at the top of the Big West Conference after winning two out of three games against second place Cal Poly May 5 to 7.

This weekend, they travel to Minneapolis for a three-game series against the Gophers and a chance to show their national prowess with some road wins.

The 27th ranked team in RPI has been inconsistent on road trips in 2017, faring best in a series sweep at UC Davis (15-25, 7-11 Big West) April 28-30 and worst when they were swept by ASU (21-24) in Phoenix March 10 to 12.

"We struggled that weekend because we were still trying to figure out who we were as a team," junior pitcher John Sheaks said. "Now we have a better understanding of that and a much stronger identity."

LBSU (30-15-1, 15-3 Big West) has been much better separated from Blair Field as of late, outscoring Big West opponents 66-26 in away games since conference play started. A big part of that has come from junior shortstop, Laine Huffman.

"For me, it's always exciting to travel," Huffman said. "At the same time, we have to respect [the other players]. They're in the top of their conference so we have to come at them with the same intent we've had the last few weeks."

The Gophers (29-15, 12-6 Big Ten) are tied for second place in the Big Ten Conference and have been playing strong baseball recently. After sweeping Penn State (15-33) last weekend, Minnesota won't be an easy series for LBSU.

"We're going to be staying with the same approach that has gotten us to this point," Sheaks said. "Not much changes and we certainly aren't going to overlook them."

The Dirtbags make the three-and-a-half hour flight to Minnesota on Thursday morning and will have a light practice that night.

"We get a chance to get used to what it's like over there and have practice," Huffman said. "I think those practices really help especially when guys are feeling jet lagged from the travel."

Sheaks will be looking to win his eighth game of the season as the Saturday starter with a combined record of 19-4. Junior Darren McCaughan won his sixth game on May 7 against Cal Poly in shutout fashion and struck out 11 batters. For Sheaks, one challenge he's faced in 2017 has been following up solid performances from McCaughan, the reigning Big West Pitcher of the year.

"It's a tough act to follow," Sheaks said. "But at the same time, Darren is the best guy to learn from. Not just stuff he tells you but what you can learn about the way he attacks the lineup you're going to be facing the next day."

While LBSU hasn't had a lot of trouble scoring runs lately, the team has made it a point to start implementing more of a "small ball" mentality to its offense.

"We've been focusing a lot more on putting more "hit and runs" into the games," Huffman said. "It's important not to forget about that part of the game and make sure to fine tune those details."

The Dirtbags have six games left to pad their lead in conference in the form of a home series against Hawai'i (25-17, 7-8 Big West) May 19 to 21 and the Big West Conference finale at No. 16 Cal State Fullerton (29-16, 10-5 Big West) May 25 to 27.

Before LBSU can get back to their main focus on winning their first conference championship since 2008, they have to focus on taking some wins out of the series against Minnesota.

FAST FACTS

QUEST FOR OMAHA

- With this weekend's series the Dirtbags get a break from Big West play.
- LBSU currently sits in first place in the Big West with a 15-3 record.
- Junior pitcher John Sheaks leads the team with seven wins.
- Sophomore second baseman Jarren Duran sit in second place with 14 steals .
- Sophomore pitcher Chris Rivera is fifth in the Big West in saves with seven.
- Junior pitcher Darren McCaughan is tied for the most strikeouts in the Big West with 80.

CAMMON

continued from page 8

"It's a dream come true to be able to come back to the Beach family," Cammon said in the press release. "I feel like I never left because my heart was still there in Long Beach. I'm both humbled and excited to come back and be able to build on the successful tradition and culture established by Wynn, Derek and the rest of her staff."

Wynn recently departed LBSU after leading its team to its first NCAA Tournament since the 1991-1992 season to take the head coach position at the University of Washington.

Cammon's familiarity with the team was something that was exciting for the returning players, as well.

"Everybody is really excited that it's Jeff," junior guard Cece Wilson said. "We're glad it's someone that we're familiar with and already have a relationship [with]. So, as far as having to build a new one, it's not going to be hard."

While Wilson hasn't had an opportunity to speak to Cammon since the announcement at the time of this interview, she's excited for what his coaching style will bring to the team.

"He recruited me," Wilson said. "He's such a great guy and I know from the other girls previous years, they talked about his coaching and his work ethic and he's the type of guy that's going to try and get everything out of you and that's the kind of coach I want."

Along with the new hire, Cammon faces the challenge of replacing the five seniors that are leaving and attempting to keep the commitments that Wynn had for the 2017-2018 season.

One thing Cammon will not have to worry about is having returning players that are ready to prove that last season wasn't a fluke.

"Everybody always seem to count us out," Wilson said. "We're always the underdog for something, but we always seem to prove people wrong."

Cammon will be introduced by Fee today at 10 a.m. in the Okleja Room in the Walter Pyramid. The press conference will be streamed live on longbeachstate.com.

D49er SPORTS

Follow @49ERSPORTS for live tweeting of LBSU games.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FAMILIAR FACE

Long Beach State looks to the past in hopes of a successful future.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

Two days into his new position, Long Beach State Athletics Director Andy Fee announced that he has selected Jeff Cammon to become the new women's basketball head coach.

"It was critical to fill the position [fast]," Fee said. "But at the same time, you want to be careful. You want to make sure you get the right person and not just sprint to fill the position. It was very fast and was a success."

Along with making sure that the coach selected would work with the team, it was important to make sure that the individual fit in with the department, university and community as a whole.

Fee said that the university had a very diverse group of candidates, but Cammon always stood out.

"Jeff just continued to rise to the top through each stage [of the interview process]," Fee said. "He's ready to be a head coach, he understands the culture of The Beach."

Cammon's name may sound familiar to some, as he was a member of former coach Jody Wynn's first coaching staff at LBSU for five years. His most recent job was at Colorado, where he spent a year as assistant coach in 2016.

see **CAMMON**, page 7



Courtesy of Colorado Athletics

Long Beach State welcomes Jeff Cammon as the new women's basketball head coach. Cammon spent time with Colorado and California before returning to the team.

Congratulations 2017 Graduates!



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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH





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Psychology

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